

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 8:10 PM
To: JK Murphy
Subject: Re: Meeting

JK

Thank you for your time today. I am glad you are settling in and I have always appreciated your approach. It will be great for Cobb and the MDJ.

Mr. Hankerson asked me to reach out. He could not remember if he told you that Cobb's policy does not allow for non recurring funds to be considered in millage calculations. The \$400,000 number is Non recurring. The \$50,000 number is a recurring figure.

Thanks again. I look forward to working with.

Hope you're home by now ;)

Kellie

On Apr 29, 2015, at 5:54 PM, JK Murphy <jkmurphy@mdjonline.com> wrote:

3:30 it is.

From: Brownlow, Kellie [<mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 3:56 PM
To: JK Murphy
Cc: Otis Brumby III; Joe Kirby
Subject: Re: Meeting

JK

Is there any way you guys could do 3:30?

Kellie

On Apr 29, 2015, at 3:45 PM, JK Murphy <jkmurphy@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Kellie,

3 p.m. Thursday here at the MDJ. It will be me and Joe Kirby from the Journal. Otis is otherwise occupied.

Thanks.

- JK

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 4:29 PM
To: 'Hilary Butschek'
Subject: RE: Interview request

Hey Hilary! So sorry. We have been in meetings all day long and are not available to talk by phone, but below is the Chairman's answer to your question re: MARTA. Also, your questions regarding the Executive Coordinator position were forwarded to me. I will answer and send those to you next. Sorry. Hectic end to hectic week, But hopefully, we have answered your questions.

Kellie

From: Hilary Butschek [mailto:hbutschek@mdjonline.com]
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2015 11:01 AM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: Interview request

Hello Ms. Brownlow,

I'd like to talk with Chairman Lee today for a couple stories I'm working on for the weekend. Mainly, I'm working on a story about the county's relationship with MARTA. There was an agreement approved between the county and MARTA this Tuesday, and I'd like to know if Chairman Lee would ever consider having a MARTA line run from Cobb to Atlanta.

Cobb County has an excellent working relationship with MARTA, GRTA and Gwinnett County Transit. The direct connection to their service is important for Cobb residents who have job and transportation needs outside the confines of Cobb County. Extending MARTA into Cobb County via heavy rail is not a consideration.

Does he have a 10 free minutes for a phone interview today?

Thank you,
Hilary Butschek
Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal
770 428 9411 ext. 217
hbutschek@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 4:31 PM
To: 'Hilary Butschek'
Cc: Leow, AikWah
Subject: FW: FW: Media request - Staff question

Hilary,

See below.

Kellie

from: Hilary Butschek [<mailto:hbutschek@mdjonline.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 2:50 PM
To: Hankerson, David
Subject: Media request - Staff question

Hello Mr. Hankerson,

I tried calling your office, but your assistant said you would be out of the office for the rest of the day. Is there any way you could please answer a question related to staff for me?

I'm writing a story about the position up on the county website for an executive coordinator in the chairman's office. I wanted to ask how many positions this would make total in the chairman's office? **2 total staff positions**

Will his staff remain as one full time deputy chief, two part time assistants and this full time executive coordinator position? **No. There will be a Deputy Chief and an Executive Coordinator.**

Could you please tell me how many staff members total will be in the chairman's office? **2**

Also, why was there no Board of Commissioners vote held to authorize this position? **Not required.**

Could you please get back to me as soon as possible today?

Thank you,

Hilary Butschek

Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal

[770 428 9411 ext. 217](tel:7704289411)

hbutschek@mdjonline.com

AikWah Leow
Communications Manager
Cobb County Communications Office
100 Cherokee St. Suite 130
Marietta GA 30090
[770-528-2488](tel:7705282488)
aleow@cobbcounty.org
www.cobbcounty.org

On-duty PIO contact:

govpio@cobbcommunications.org

770-528-1155



For the latest news and information happening around the county including emergency road closures and severe traffic delays, text "follow cobbcountygovt" to 40404 or find Cobb County Government on Facebook.

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2015 7:37 AM
To: 'jkirby@mdjonline.com'
Subject: TGIF
Attachments: ChairmanLee_GuestEditorial_Bridge_May15.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Joe

Good morning. Per our discussion yesterday, attached is a guest editorial from Chairman Lee to be run in the Sunday paper. If you could give me a buzz or just email back to confirm you've received this.

It is under 750 words so we should be ok. Do feel free to call me any time if you have any questions. Hope you get out of there early today! Enjoy the weekend.

Kellie

Kellie Anne Brownlow
Deputy Chief to the Chairman
Cobb County Chairman's Office
(d) 770-528-3333
(m) 404-374-3130
Kellie.brownlow@cobbcounty.org

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 8:28 PM
To: Hilary Butschek
Subject: Re: Follow up question

Hey!

Answers to questions below! Let me know if you need anything else.

Kellie

Arcadis U.S. was issued a contract on 2/26/13 for \$1.4 million for the 2040 CTP Update

The “Programmed Roadway Projects” element of the 2008 CTP 2030. This element is the equivalent to the short-term list of the CTP 2040.

Approximately 85% of the projects in the “Programmed Roadway Projects” list are complete or in progress in our engineering division.

On May 20, 2015, at 11:33 AM, Hilary Butschek <hbutschek@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Hello Ms. Brownlow,

I thought of another question related to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan: Does the county know how many of the projects in the 2030 plan have been completed?

Thanks,
Hilary Butschek
Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal
770 428 9411 ext. 217
hbutschek@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 1:41 PM
To: 'Hilary Butschek'
Subject: RE: Follow up question

Hilary, CTP answers below:

The CTP web site has the documents.

<http://www.cobbinmotion.com/reports-and-maps.html>

SPLOST 2016 projects are included in the short-term element of the CTP. SPLOST 2011 projects were considered as baseline projects and not included in the CTP 2040. Windy Hill Boulevard, a joint Smyrna / Cobb County project, was funded for preliminary engineering only in SPLOST 2011. It is funded for construction in the SPLOST 2016.

There is \$50 million in SPLOST 2016 for matching state and federal funds. There are a list of possible projects in the SPLOST 2016 book.

Chairman will not be available for interview today. However, happy to answer any questions you might have via email if you want to send them my way.

Try not to stay too late tonight.

Kellie

From: Hilary Butschek [mailto:hbutschek@mdjonline.com]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 11:08 AM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: RE: Follow up question

Hi, just got your message and that sounds good.
Thanks!

From: Brownlow, Kellie [mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 8:28 PM
To: Hilary Butschek
Subject: Re: Follow up question

Hey!

Answers to questions below! Let me know if you need anything else.

Kellie

Arcadis U.S. was issued a contract on 2/26/13 for \$1.4 million for the 2040 CTP Update

The “Programmed Roadway Projects” element of the 2008 CTP 2030. This element is the equivalent to the short-term list of the CTP 2040.

Approximately 85% of the projects in the “Programmed Roadway Projects” list are complete or in progress in our engineering division.

On May 20, 2015, at 11:33 AM, Hilary Butschek <hbutschek@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Hello Ms. Brownlow,

I thought of another question related to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan: Does the county know how many of the projects in the 2030 plan have been completed?

Thanks,
Hilary Butschek
Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal
770 428 9411 ext. 217
hbutschek@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 8:16 PM
To: Jon Gillooly
Cc: Pehrson, Jim
Subject: Re: MDJ request
Attachments: image001.gif

Jim just stepped out to confirm both for you. You should hear from him in short order.

On May 26, 2015, at 8:14 PM, Jon Gillooly <jgillooly@mdionline.com> wrote:

I believe the answer to both questions is yes, but just want to make sure.

Jon Gillooly
Marietta Daily Journal
Phone: 770.428.9411 ext. 211
Fax: 770.422.9533

From: Brownlow, Kellie [<mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 8:07 PM
To: Jon Gillooly
Subject: Re: MDJ request

Ok. Jim will reach out in a second.

On May 26, 2015, at 8:04 PM, Jon Gillooly <jgillooly@mdionline.com> wrote:

This story is running tonight.

Jon Gillooly
Marietta Daily Journal
Phone: 770.428.9411 ext. 211
Fax: 770.422.9533

From: Brownlow, Kellie [<mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 8:03 PM
To: Jon Gillooly
Cc: Pehrson, Jim
Subject: Re: MDJ request

Jon

In BOC right now. Jim will reach out to you first thing in am.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Kellie

On May 26, 2015, at 7:55 PM, Jon Gillooly <jgillooly@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Jim/Kellie:

When last I wrote about the maintenance costs the county was responsible for regarding SunTrust Park, we wrote that the county's capital maintenance costs were capped at \$35 million and that anything over that would be paid for by the Braves over the life of the 30-year contract. In addition, the county was only responsible in this \$35 million cost for capital maintenance items only — pipes, elevators, etc. — while general maintenance was the responsibility of the Braves.

1) Is that still accurate?

We also reported at the time that the \$35 million would come from the new Cumberland tax district.

2) Still correct?

Thanks,

Jon

Jon Gillooly
Marietta Daily Journal
Phone: 770.428.9411 ext. 211
Fax: 770.422.9533

Agreement caps Cobb's responsibility for Braves stadium capital maintenance at \$35 million

[http://mdjonline.com/view/full_story/24140245/article-Agreement-caps-Cobb-s-responsibility-for-Braves-stadium-capital-maintenance-at-\\$35-million?instance=braves](http://mdjonline.com/view/full_story/24140245/article-Agreement-caps-Cobb-s-responsibility-for-Braves-stadium-capital-maintenance-at-$35-million?instance=braves)

by Jon Gillooly

November 29, 2013 07:03

PM | 4408 views | 6  | 42  | 

MARIETTA — An amendment to the agreement with the Atlanta Braves approved by the Cobb Board of Commissioners on Tuesday caps the amount of capital maintenance the county will have to pay for the new stadium at \$35 million.

Anything more than that over the 30-year life of the contract falls to the Braves to pay for, said county chairman Tim Lee.

Much has been made of how Turner Field, which is only 16 years old, is in need of at least \$150 million in capital maintenance improvements.

Critics of the Cobb deal have worried that Cobb could be saddled with similar costs halfway through the 30-year contract with the Braves.

But Mike Plant, executive vice president of business operations for the Braves, said comparing Turner Field's needs to that of the proposed Cobb stadium is comparing apples and oranges. Turner Field was built for the Olympics, a 16-day event. By being able to build their own stadium from the ground up, they will be able to design it in such a way that will not require the kind of capital maintenance expenses needed of Turner Field, he said.

Still, rather than take his word for it, Plant said it was appropriate to cap the county's expenses in a legally binding contract.

"Tim and (Commissioner) Bob (Ott) and I had a conversation saying, OK, here's what the Braves will propose, we'll propose that we're both in for 50 percent up to \$70 million, and if it goes over that 100 percent of the overage is the Braves, so there's nothing now in this deal that doesn't have a cap on it, and the biggest one obviously being I've seen a number of articles written about how these projects and budgets always go over, and the county is just looking at more and more exposure, and they're going to get screwed, and I think you know from looking at the (memorandum of understanding) that we're responsible for all the cost overruns."

Plant describes capital maintenance costs by using the example of taking a building and turning it upside down. The items that would fall out of the building represent general maintenance, which falls to the Braves, while the items that do not fall out, such as pipes, elevators and concrete, fall under capital maintenance. Capital maintenance costs will be split between the Braves and Cobb.

How the county plans to pay the \$35 million

The \$35 million in capital maintenance which the county is obligated to pay is over and above the \$672 million cost of the stadium, of which the county has agreed to pay for \$300 million.

Lee said he intends to pay for the \$35 million from revenues collected from a new tax district the Board of Commissioners will create in the coming weeks with boundaries roughly following the lines of the 5.5-square-mile Cumberland Community Improvement District. The governing board of that CID, chaired by Tad Leithead, has already signed a resolution endorsing the new tax district's creation.

Since the new tax district will be formed and begin to collect money

before the first payments on the bonds issued to finance the stadium are due, Lee anticipates having a minimum of \$10 million set aside by the time the first capital maintenance improvements need to be made.

"It probably won't begin to be a need until you're five or six years into it," Lee said. "It's to repair stuff like you would repair in your home long term. Like on your home you would replace shingles and water heaters. This is to replace stuff like that on the stadium, which, the first five to seven years, you probably aren't going to need."

As for routine maintenance, that is up to the Braves to pay for, Plant said.

"We spend \$1 million a year out of our budget just on repairs and just general maintenance," Plant said. "It's an unknown number to most people, and I understand the emotion that sometimes goes into deals like this because of how big they are, but I think I'm confident more and more that the citizens of Cobb will see that this impact and the positive impact is going to far surpass what they believe the risk is to them."

Plant said around the new stadium's fifth or sixth birthday, his organization will begin to look for enhancements, which he calls "the new roller coaster."

"What I mean by that is, it's an expression I've used at the Braves is every year or two, once you start looking at a new facility, you need to start looking at what's the new enhancement, what's the new fan experience, and that's not coming out of CMF (capital maintenance fund), that's coming out of our pocket, so it's another bucket of dollars that we will be putting in," Plant said.

But what if they leave?

Critics have worried about the Braves leaving before the 30-year bonds for the stadium are paid off, but Lee and Plant say the terms of the contract they will be signing are legally binding.

"Essentially, the only way the Braves could ever leave is if the county and the (Cobb-Marietta Coliseum and Exhibit Hall Authority) that owns the building were in complete breach of their obligations, and there's a whole bunch of default breaches and notices and cures in the long form agreement, so it's kind of a nuclear clause," Plant said. "There's nothing that we can do to walk away from that. So it's all on the county that as long as they do what say they're going to do, we're there."

The contract, which will be one of several the county and Braves sign over the coming months in the wake of the memorandum of understanding approval, is standard for the industry, Plant said.

"It's also something that's approved by Major League Baseball because they understand that they're not going to have their clubs set up to where they can five, 10 years down the road decide to pick up and go

somewhere else. It's a pretty standard form that's used," he said.

Consider that it's not just the \$280 million upfront payment the Braves are making on the \$672 million stadium, either, Plant said.

"I mean, we didn't win the lottery," he said. "There's an opportunity cost for us to go above that of about \$100 million. That's on our balance sheet. That's not even part of the deal. There's another \$40 to \$50 million that we're putting in of what we call F, F and E — furniture, fixtures and equipment — in order to open the stadium. That's all on our side of the ledger as well. Then you add the annual maintenance, that's about \$1 million a year, and then you add over the life of the 30 years, as I said, Turner Field, we put \$125 million in there, and so I don't know what that number will be, but we'll keep investing in that facility to make sure that we have a new fan experience and enhancements and then there's the development, so our number is pretty significant in this deal. As I said, I'm very comfortable and confident that the citizens of Cobb County are going to see this incredible impact and it will pay dividends tenfold."

Moving forward The Braves have been working with Dallas-based HKS for architectural services, Cary, N.C.-based Kimley-Horn & Associates on engineering and transportation, and Chicago-based Jones Lang LaSalle for its development needs.

"We have those guys on board now," Plant said. "The way we set this up was until we got final approval then they've been working for us as part of our team and we're far down the road."

This coming week Plant intends to issue a 60-plus page "request for qualifications" to some 50 national, regional and local firms for the proposed \$400 million mixed-use development the Braves intend to build beside the stadium.

Of the 60-acre property the Braves are purchasing from Bethesda, Md.-based B.F. Saul Co., 15 will be deeded to the Cobb-Marietta Coliseum and Exhibit Hall Authority for the stadium site. The Braves intend to build a \$400 million mixed-use development on the remaining 45 acres, set to open with the stadium in spring 2017, envisioned as a 365-day a year family-friendly entertainment district of shops, restaurants and possibly hotels.

"We want them to present us with what they think their ideas are," Plant said of the 50 firms that will receive the request for qualifications. "What they would do with that space. How they would possibly play in that space with us."

Then the Braves will decide whether to be their own master developer or to partner with an outside firm.

Plant hopes groundbreaking will occur this coming summer.

"We're just thrilled with this decision and with the opportunity to be part of the community up there," Plant told the MDJ on Wednesday, the day after the historic vote, in which the Board of Commissioners approved the MOU in a 4-1 vote with Lisa Cupid opposed.

"I'm just really confident that again we're going to have a historic impact for a long, long time in a very positive way for the entire area and the region, and we're an organization that's going to deliver more than what we said we're going to, and I just ask people to give us a little time, they're going to start seeing that, I told Lisa Cupid that same thing last night afterwards, I said 'look, we're going to do some things that are going to make everyone here pretty proud.'"

Read more: [The Marietta Daily Journal - Agreement caps Cobb's responsibility for Braves stadium capital maintenance at](#)

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 11:33 AM
To: 'Hilary Butschek'
Subject: Before we meet

From: Hilary Butschek [<mailto:hbutschek@mdjonline.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 11:22 AM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: Before we meet

Hilary,

Numbers for the General Fund are below- Kellie

Hi Ms. Brownlow,

I wanted to let you know ahead of our meeting that I'd like to have the following specific numbers:

Revenue of proposed FY 16 budget: [350,089,121](#)

Revenue of adopted FY 15: [340,788,261](#)

Expenses of proposed FY 16: [350,089,121](#)

Expenses of adopted FY 15: [340,788,261](#)

Millage rate for proposed FY 16: [6.82](#)

Millage rate adopted FY 15: [7.12](#)

Thank you,
Hilary Butschek
Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal
770 428 9411 ext. 217
hbutschek@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 2:41 PM
To: 'jkmurphy@mdjonline.com'
Subject: Thank you
Attachments: FY 2016 Budget Presentation - Fri AM.pdf; ChairmanLee2016BudgetNewsletter.pdf; employeememo.pdf

Importance: High

JK

Thank you for your time today and for giving Chairman Lee the opportunity to walk through his 2016 budget proposal. I need to make one correction: Chairman commented that the first time we budgeted a water transfer for less than 10 percent was 2015. **2014 was actually the first budget year in which we budgeted the water transfer at less than 10 percent.** Can you confirm receipt of this correction and let Hilary and Ricky know too?

Also, attached you will find:

- Presentation that will be made during BOC tomorrow;
- Chairman's newsletter that will be distributed countywide tomorrow;
- Chairman's memo to all Cobb County employees that will go out today.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thank you again.

Kellie

Kellie Anne Brownlow
Deputy Chief to the Chairman
Cobb County Chairman's Office
(d) 770-528-3333
(m) 404-374-3130
Kellie.brownlow@cobbcounty.org

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 5:05 PM
To: 'Hilary Butschek'; Pehrson, Jim
Subject: RE: Budget question

Hilary

That is incorrect. The slide to which you are referring is titled "Cobb County Public Safety Additions from Fiscal year 2014-2016."

Refer to the budget recap slide (slide 24) for the total number. "The General Fund Investment in Public Safety is \$197,306,653"
County wide investment (including Fire and E 911) is \$287,824,407

Kellie

From: Hilary Butschek [mailto:hbutschek@mdjonline.com]
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 4:59 PM
To: Brownlow, Kellie; Pehrson, Jim
Subject: Budget question

Hello all,

Looking at the slide "Public Safety Investment" – is it correct to say in the proposed FY 16 budget there will be \$10,138,471 allocated to public safety?

Hilary Butschek
Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal
770 428 9411 ext. 217
hbutschek@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 4:53 PM
To: 'Hilary Butschek'
Subject: RE: Request for comment

Hilary

From Chairman Lee:

It has been my goal since I learned about this matter to ensure that a proper review is conducted and I am confident that the Cobb County public safety leadership team is doing that.

Kellie

From: Hilary Butschek [mailto:hbutschek@mdjonline.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 3:38 PM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: RE: Request for comment

Also, I want to ask if he can give a statement on whether he thinks the water rate will rise or fall or stay the same.

From: Brownlow, Kellie [mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org]
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 3:32 PM
To: Hilary Butschek <hbutschek@mdjonline.com>
Subject: Re: Request for comment

Hilary

We are in a meeting right now, but yes Chairman Lee will provide a comment.

I'll get back to you. If we get out of here before his 4:30, we'll call you.

If not, can I send you a statement?

Kellie

On Aug 11, 2015, at 3:19 PM, Hilary Butschek <hbutschek@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Hello Ms. Brownlow,

Could you please let me know if Chairman Lee is available to comment at all on Commissioner Cupid's comments today during the public address?

Will he be willing to work with her or make a priority of creating a citizen review board?

Thank you,

Hilary Butschek
Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal
770 428 9411 ext. 217
hbutschek@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 1:57 PM
To: 'Hilary Butschek'
Subject: RE: Request

Hilary

Chairman Lee is not familiar enough with the GRTA routes and plan to make a specific comment. In regard to Connect Cobb, as far as the Chairman is concerned, BRT is not an active project. Should staff ever decide to make a recommendation to move BRT forward, the board will consider it at the time. If the Board chooses to accept the recommendation, the final decision will be put to Cobb voters in a referendum.

Thanks much!

Kellie

From: Hilary Butschek [mailto:hbutschek@mdjonline.com]
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 11:47 AM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: Request

Hello again,

I have one last request for you:

I am writing about the coming upgrades to GRTA routes. I already heard a response from Faye DiMassimo on this, but I wanted to see if Chairman Lee would make a comment on whether these new routes (included in the description below) will make the proposed Connect Cobb project not needed. Email or phone is good for me!

Thank you,
Hilary Butschek
Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal
770 428 9411 ext. 217
hbutschek@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 1:53 PM
To: 'jkmurphy@mdjonline.com'
Cc: Kell, Sheri
Subject: FW: Guest Column: Cobb County Chairman Tim Lee's Response to Request for Citizen Advisory Board
Attachments: Memo_CAB.PDF

JK

Per your request, attached is the memo Chairman Lee sent to the Board. There are no other correspondence that I am aware of regarding this issue.

Please let me know if this satisfies your request.

Kellie

From: JK Murphy [mailto:jkmurphy@mdjonline.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 10:54 AM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: RE: Guest Column: Cobb County Chairman Tim Lee's Response to Request for Citizen Advisory Board

Thanks.

MDJ is requesting to see any recent related documents, emails, memos, etc. from commissioners regarding the police citizen review panel proposal.

J.K. Murphy
Managing Editor/ VP of Content
Marietta Daily Journal
770-428-9411 Ext. 207
jkmurphy@mdjonline.com

From: Brownlow, Kellie [mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 9:33 AM
To: Brownlow, Kellie <Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>
Subject: Guest Column: Cobb County Chairman Tim Lee's Response to Request for Citizen Advisory Board

Kellie Anne Brownlow
Deputy Chief to the Chairman
Cobb County Chairman's Office
(d) 770-528-3333
(m) 404-374-3130
Kellie.brownlow@cobbcounty.org

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 4:56 PM
To: 'jkmurphy@mdjonline.com'
Subject: FW: Guest Column: Cobb County Chairman Tim Lee's Response to Request for Citizen Advisory Board
Attachments: Chairman'sLetter.pdf
Importance: High

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 4:45 PM
To: 'Jackson, Andre (CMG-Atlanta)'
Subject: RE: Guest Column: Cobb County Chairman Tim Lee's Response to Request for Citizen Advisory Board
Importance: High

Andre

I have tried to reach you a few times today. Just in case we are not able to touch base, please be sure to include the following note with the printed version on Sunday.

"In writing this column, the quoted phrases were repeated from another letter to the editor printed in the Lexington Herald-Leader on May 11, 2015."

Attached is a version of the column that includes quotes around the phrases and this footnote.

Please do confirm that you received this email and footnoted version.

Thank you much.

Kellie

From: Jackson, Andre (CMG-Atlanta) [<mailto:Andre.Jackson@ajc.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 5:50 PM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: FW: Guest Column: Cobb County Chairman Tim Lee's Response to Request for Citizen Advisory Board

Dear Ms. Brownlow:

I don't believe we've met, but the following op-ed was forwarded to me by our news-side folks. I oversee the AJC's Opinion team, which operates pretty much independently of our newsgathering operation. I'm writing to advise that I plan on using Chairman Lee's op-ed on our Sunday, Aug. 30 Editorial page as part of a package I'm assembling around police/community relations. His points reflect a common position in the ongoing debate over the role of police in our communities nationwide, thus it caught my eye as we work to present multiple points of view on our pages every day.

Thanks,

Andre Jackson

Editorial Editor
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and AJC.com
Andre.Jackson@ajc.com
404.526.5882

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Brownlow, Kellie" <Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>
Date: August 20, 2015 at 9:33:23 AM EDT
To: "Brownlow, Kellie" <Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>
Subject: Guest Column: Cobb County Chairman Tim Lee's Response to Request for Citizen Advisory Board

Kellie Anne Brownlow
Deputy Chief to the Chairman
Cobb County Chairman's Office
(d) 770-528-3333
(m) 404-374-3130
Kellie.brownlow@cobbcounty.org

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 5:26 PM
To: Jon Gillooly
Subject: Re: Media request
Attachments: image001.jpg

Jon, see below. Let me know if you need anything else. -Kellie

From Chairman Lee:

"The Weather Channel is a legacy Cobb County Company. They have a history of successfully adapting to industry and technology changes. I am confident that this most recent announcement is another smart business response to a shift in the industry. Cobb County has a longstanding relationship with The Weather Channel and we look forward to working with them far into the future."

On Sep 9, 2015, at 5:01 PM, Jon Gillooly <jgillooly@mdjonline.com> wrote:

The context is the Weather Channel let go its two major stars and 50 employees and does that mean it's in trouble?

They've threatened to leave Cobb before:

http://mdjonline.com/view/full_story_no/24193577/article-The-Weather-Channel-threatens-to-pull-up-stakes-if-it-doesn-t-get-incentives-from-Cobb

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/sam-champion-al-roker-lose-821255>

Jon Gillooly
Marietta Daily Journal
Phone: 770.428.9411 ext. 211
jgillooly@mdjonline.com

From: Brownlow, Kellie [<mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 4:53 PM
To: Jon Gillooly <jgillooly@mdjonline.com>
Subject: Re: Media request

Jon

Sure. Can you share context? What is deadline?

Kellie

On Sep 9, 2015, at 4:25 PM, Jon Gillooly <jgillooly@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Kellie,

Need some commentary from Chairman Lee about the below and the importance of the Weather Channel in Cobb County.

Thanks,

Jon

Jon Gillooly
Marietta Daily Journal
Phone: 770.428.9411 ext. 211
jgillooly@mdjonline.com

Sam Champion loses show in major Weather Channel shakeup

By Brian Stelter [@brianstelter](#)

<http://money.cnn.com/2015/09/09/media/weather-channel-sam-champion/index.html>

<image001.jpg>

The Weather Channel is canceling Sam Champion's morning newscast, replacing reality shows with more weather coverage, cutting TV production costs and laying off some staffers in a sweeping adjustment to changes in the cable business.

The channel shared a detailed plan with staffers on Wednesday morning. About 50 of the channel's 1,400 employees will be leaving.

The plan calls for a singular focus "on our unique strength -- and that is the weather."

With the cable channel bundle coming under increasing pressure, and "skinny bundles" becoming more common, "it's inevitable that channels will be cut," Weather Company CEO David Kenny said in an interview.

With this in mind, "we need to be really clear who we are," Kenny said.

That means paring back its original programming investments (shows like "Prospectors" and "Fat Guys in the Woods") and lifestyle coverage. The priority is essential, live weather coverage -- particularly during periods of severe weather -- and local information.

"It's going to cost more money to do longer hours of live, so we have to be more efficient about it," he said.

Overall TV spending will be reduced as well. Kenny said "we're now a technology company that owns a TV channel, not a TV company."

Weather.com is increasingly the front door for the company's customers. In the second quarter of 2015, for the first time, its digital business had higher revenues and profits than its TV business.

At the same time, the TV side has been in a defensive posture, trying to hold onto the monthly subscriber fees that it receives from cable and satellite distributors.

When DirecTV dropped the channel for three months last year, it was an early signal that those fees are in jeopardy.

Wednesday's shakeup is a direct result of discussions with distributors, advertisers and audience focus groups.

Dave Shull, the president of the Weather Company's TV division, said distributors are "only going to carry channels they have to carry in the future."

Shull knows first hand. Until recently, he was a top executive at the Dish Network ([DISH](#)).

So what channels will those be? "Those that are live; that are on-brand; and that do something no one else does," Shull said.

<image002.jpg>

That's how Shull is explaining the various decisions he announced in an internal memo Wednesday.

Champion's three-hour morning show, which launched just last year, will end on October 30. The show includes the kind of lifestyle and entertainment segments that the channel is now moving away from.

The channel says Champion, who was poached from ABC's "Good Morning America," will remain a full-time host with a focus on prime time and new digital ventures.

A replacement morning show will focus on straight-forward weather storytelling.

"Over the next several months, you will see us further simplify our branding across all dayparts," Shull said in his internal memo.

"Regardless of the time of day, our mission is the same -- to provide the best weather forecasts and stories, and scientific expert explanations of those forecasts."

Kenny and Shull said they expect to take a "ratings hit" as the reality shows gradually go away.

The channel will also cut back on production costs in other ways. But the channel, Kenny said, will "become more of a service," there to "super-serve the audience."

That said, Shull said the channel's weather reports will strive to be more than just a "man and a map," because basic weather forecasts are now so easily accessible on mobile devices.

The TV sweet spot, he said, is "the story and the science behind the forecasts."

He is interested in incorporating more video clips and live streams from viewers at home who are witnessing severe and unusual weather.

The company is also prioritizing a localized weather, traffic and news channel it is calling Local Now. It wants to sell the channel to streaming cable-like services like Sling TV.

<http://money.cnn.com/2015/09/09/media/weather-channel-sam-champion/index.html>

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 3:53 PM
To: 'Joe Kirby'
Subject: RE: quick question

Joe, let me confirm for you. My recall is that you are close.

I'll get back to you in a minute...

From: Joe Kirby [mailto:JKirby@mdjonline.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 3:52 PM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: quick question

Kellie – the column looks fine. But a question about an unrelated piece for Around Town: What is the salary for Cobb Chairman? Memory tells me it's \$137,000 a year. Is that correct?

Thanks!

Joe

From: Brownlow, Kellie [mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 3:10 PM
To: JK Murphy <jkmurphy@mdjonline.com>; Joe Kirby <JKirby@mdjonline.com>
Subject: Budget_Final

Attached. Sorry for the wait. Please confirm receipt.

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 4:16 PM
To: 'Joe Kirby'
Subject: RE: quick question

I was wondering where you were going with this one... ☺

From: Joe Kirby [mailto:JKirby@mdjonline.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 4:12 PM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: RE: quick question

Next question: will he split it with me ???

From: Brownlow, Kellie [mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 4:06 PM
To: Joe Kirby <JKirby@mdjonline.com>
Cc: Hagler, Tony <Tony.Hagler@cobbcounty.org>
Subject: RE: quick question

Joe- spot on. Good memory.

Base Salary is \$131, 188.

Total \$137,000 including travel and supplemental.

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Kellie

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 2:27 PM
To: Meris Lutz
Subject: RE: Parking Desk subsidy

Meris,

From Chairman Lee:

Unfortunately, the parking deck fund has not met the expectations we set several years ago when we built the second deck. County staff is in the process of reevaluating the current situation. The goal is to present a plan to the Board during the first quarter of 2016.

Kellie

From: Meris Lutz [mailto:mlutz@mdjonline.com]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 2:06 PM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: Parking Desk subsidy

Hi Kellie,

I know that Chairman Lee is out of town, but I was hoping to get some comment on the parking deck fund and the fact that it will need a \$500,000 subsidy from the general fund this year. It seems the revenue projections based on the juvenile court have fallen short. I have already spoken to the finance department about this; when does the board intend to address this from a policy perspective? What can be done? Will the general fund need to subsidize the parking deck fund every year?

Thanks!

Meris

Meris Lutz
Reporter
Marietta Daily Journal
770-428-9411 (217) W
404-5781919 M

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 4:13 PM
To: Meris Lutz
Subject: Re: Parking Desk subsidy

Meris

Let me see what I can do.

Hang tight

Kellie

On Sep 18, 2015, at 3:08 PM, Meris Lutz <mlutz@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Great, would it be possible to get a comment from Chairman Lee on the new police headquarters and public safety training facility that is on Tuesday's agenda? I know this is the very first step and there are no specifics, but is he excited that the county is moving forward on this? Why are these facilities important?

Thank you so much! Everyone is out of town this week and it's been tough to get a hold of people.

From: Brownlow, Kellie [<mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 2:27 PM
To: Meris Lutz <mlutz@mdjonline.com>
Subject: RE: Parking Desk subsidy

Meris,

From Chairman Lee:

Unfortunately, the parking deck fund has not met the expectations we set several years ago when we built the second deck. County staff is in the process of reevaluating the current situation. The goal is to present a plan to the Board during the first quarter of 2016.

Kellie

From: Meris Lutz [<mailto:mlutz@mdjonline.com>]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 2:06 PM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: Parking Desk subsidy

Hi Kellie,

I know that Chairman Lee is out of town, but I was hoping to get some comment on the parking deck fund and the fact that it will need a \$500,000 subsidy from the general fund this year. It seems the revenue projections based on the juvenile court have fallen short. I have already spoken to the finance

department about this; when does the board intend to address this from a policy perspective? What can be done? Will the general fund need to subsidize the parking deck fund every year?

Thanks!

Meris

Meris Lutz
Reporter
Marietta Daily Journal
770-428-9411 (217) W
404-5781919 M

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 4:46 PM
To: Meris Lutz
Subject: Re: Parking Desk subsidy

Meris

From Chairman Lee. Let me know if this works.

I am excited about moving forward with plans for a new police headquarter and training facility. This is another example of our steadfast commitment to public safety. I am proud of Cobb County voters for passing the SPLOST that is making this project possible.

On Sep 18, 2015, at 3:08 PM, Meris Lutz <mlutz@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Great, would it be possible to get a comment from Chairman Lee on the new police headquarters and public safety training facility that is on Tuesday's agenda? I know this is the very first step and there are no specifics, but is he excited that the county is moving forward on this? Why are these facilities important?

Thank you so much! Everyone is out of town this week and it's been tough to get a hold of people.

From: Brownlow, Kellie [<mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 2:27 PM
To: Meris Lutz <mlutz@mdjonline.com>
Subject: RE: Parking Desk subsidy

Meris,

From Chairman Lee:

Unfortunately, the parking deck fund has not met the expectations we set several years ago when we built the second deck. County staff is in the process of reevaluating the current situation. The goal is to present a plan to the Board during the first quarter of 2016.

Kellie

From: Meris Lutz [<mailto:mlutz@mdjonline.com>]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 2:06 PM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: Parking Desk subsidy

Hi Kellie,

I know that Chairman Lee is out of town, but I was hoping to get some comment on the parking deck fund and the fact that it will need a \$500,000 subsidy from the general fund this year. It seems the revenue projections based on the juvenile court have fallen short. I have already spoken to the finance

department about this; when does the board intend to address this from a policy perspective? What can be done? Will the general fund need to subsidize the parking deck fund every year?

Thanks!

Meris

Meris Lutz
Reporter
Marietta Daily Journal
770-428-9411 (217) W
404-5781919 M

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 3:41 PM
To: 'JK Murphy'
Subject: FW: Braves bridge questions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hey!

FYI below. Thought you might find it interesting that your guest columnist appears to be coordinating with Dan Klepal.

Thanks for all you do. Have a great weekend.

Kellie

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "DiMassimo, Faye" <Faye.DiMassimo@cobbcounty.org>
Date: September 11, 2015 at 3:29:49 PM EDT
To: "Rsifen@aol.com" <Rsifen@aol.com>
Subject: Re: Braves bridge questions

I think you intended this for Dan Klepal?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 11, 2015, at 2:59 PM, "Rsifen@aol.com" <Rsifen@aol.com> wrote:

Hi Dan. I am forwarding to you some emails that I have had going back and forth with Cobb County. I have submitted a column to the MDJ on the Braves impact on traffic.

Have a great weekend.

Thanks

Ron Sifen

In a message dated 9/9/2015, Faye.DiMassimo@cobbcounty.org writes:

For bullet 1 – In Table 3 of the DRI, the gross trips for the 44,676 stadium is 18,155 entering daily trips.

For bullet 2 – To clarify. The 28,407 trips are daily entering and 28,407 daily exiting. The total is 56,184 (see appendix C for details)

For #1 – see above

For #2 - the alternative mode reduction is 506 daily entering and 506 daily exiting, or 1012 for the day (see appendix C for details)

For #2 – Only existing transit was included (see appendix C for details) Transit riders is a more difficult metric to model as the existing transit network in the area serves both outbound and inbound trips more than intra-area trips. Enhanced express bus service and circulator “last mile connectivity” as well as new Route 25 connections are not captured as yet in the alternative mode reduction calculation.

From: Rsifen@aol.com [<mailto:Rsifen@aol.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 9:56 PM

To: DiMassimo, Faye; Wilgus, Jim

Cc: Ott, Bob

Subject: Re: Braves bridge questions

Your answers to my questions were extremely helpful. Thank you. I accessed the DRI traffic study. My reading of the DRI indicates

* I am not finding anything that says 25000 car trips by Braves fans to Braves games.

* The DRI looking at all uses including Braves stadium, plus residential, plus all office, plus retail, plus mixed use, plus hotel should produce gross 36454 car trips in and 36454 out per day but then that number is adjusted for mixed use and alternative mode reductions down to 28407 total car trips each way per day.

* Breaking out just the traffic going to the Braves Stadium, the gross car trips for the Braves stadium is 18155 not counting any mixed use or alternative mode adjustments.

1. Please let me know if you think I have any of the above wrong, and please let me know the correct information.

2. Table 6 shows a total Alternative Mode Reduction of 506 car trips per day for all uses combined. If this means a total of 506 new transit riders per day for all uses combined, this seems like a shockingly low number for me for an area that already serves a lot of transit users, and considering that the Braves Stadium will be served by express buses (I guess you could adjust the Braves portion of that number by dividing 365 days by 81 Braves days). Nevertheless, is this saying that on average there will only be an increase of an average of 506 transit riders per day, or does this number mean something different than the way I am reading it?

Thanks

Ron Sifen

In a message dated 9/8/2015, Faye.DiMassimo@cobbcounty.org writes:

From: Rsifen@aol.com [<mailto:Rsifen@aol.com>]
Sent: Sunday, September 06, 2015 12:18 PM
To: DiMassimo, Faye; Wilgus, Jim
Cc: Ott, Bob
Subject: Braves bridge questions

Hi Faye and Jim. I hope y'all had a great holiday weekend. Lots of recent news about the proposed pedestrian bridge across I-285. I have some questions.

1. The articles said GDOT did not approve grant requests for this bridge (they approved other requests but not this one). Previously I had heard that Cobb County had identified and applied for federal grants that might pay up to 80% of the cost. I assume that the GDOT grants are not the same grants. Or had I previously heard the wrong information, and was it actually GDOT grants that Cobb

County had applied for? Funding approaches for the bridge are still being developed and no grant applications beyond the recent request to GDOT have been submitted to other state or federal agencies.

2. What was the dollar amount of the grants Cobb requested from GDOT? For the total list submitted, we included the total costs of all projects of \$101,100,000. We did not request specific amounts as match ratios may vary from project to project. GDOT's level of participation, if any, was within their discretion on a project by project basis.

3. If Cobb has also requested federal grants for this bridge, what is the dollar amount of the federal grants that Cobb is requesting, or has already requested? We have not requested federal grants at this time.

4. The AJC article mentioned that a sold out Braves game would produce 25000 extra cars. It didn't say car trips - it said cars. To me, that means 25000 extra cars coming to the games, and 25000 extra cars leaving the game. The stadium seats 41000. The Braves have said that for those who currently drive to a Braves game, there is an average of 2.3 persons per vehicle. $41000 / 2.3 = 17826$. And that is 17826 if nobody takes transit or some other alternative. There will be at least a few thousand people attending the games via transit. Yes, there will be people going to the mixed use, and people who work at the stadium and the mixed use, but 25000 seems high. Can you provide a breakdown of all of these additional cars coming to the area on a gameday of a sold out game.

How many cars coming to the stadium area on a sold-out game day are projected to be

* Braves fans going to the game

* workers at the stadium

- * workers at the mixed use
- * consumers going to the mixed use, but not attending the game
- * Other (please explain)?

We would direct you to the SunTrust Park/Transportation page/DRI link on the Cobb DOT website for accurate information.

5. Let's also look at this from a transit ridership standpoint. GRTA is planning to utilize existing Xpress bus lots and Xpress buses to provide service to Braves games. CCT has existing and planned service to Cumberland that can get people to Braves games.

What would be the projected transit ridership (all transit riders including Braves game fans, also mixed use consumers, also workers stadium and mixed use) for sold-out Braves games via

- * Xpress buses
- * any and all CCT bus service (in 2017 - 2018) [This information is still being developed.](#)

6. Going back to car trips, what percentage of all car trips going to the stadium area on Braves gamedays (within 3 hours of the beginning of the game) will be approaching the Cumberland area from a reverse commute direction? What percentage of Braves traffic will be approaching the Cumberland area from a route completely north of I-285? [The circulator study season ticketholder survey \(as discussed at a recent TAB meeting\) noted that 73% appear to be approaching from a reverse commute standpoint. The graphic noting the percentage of access forecast for each](#)

of the 14 points is also on the Cobb DOT website for your further review.

Thanks

Ron Sifen

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 8:39 PM
To: Jon Gillooly
Subject: Re: MDJ request

Jon

Got what you need?

On May 26, 2015, at 8:14 PM, Jon Gillooly <jgillooly@mdjonline.com> wrote:

I believe the answer to both questions is yes, but just want to make sure.

Jon Gillooly
Marietta Daily Journal
Phone: 770.428.9411 ext. 211
Fax: 770.422.9533

From: Brownlow, Kellie [<mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 8:07 PM
To: Jon Gillooly
Subject: Re: MDJ request

Ok. Jim will reach out in a second.

On May 26, 2015, at 8:04 PM, Jon Gillooly <jgillooly@mdjonline.com> wrote:

This story is running tonight.

Jon Gillooly
Marietta Daily Journal
Phone: 770.428.9411 ext. 211
Fax: 770.422.9533

From: Brownlow, Kellie [<mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 8:03 PM
To: Jon Gillooly
Cc: Pehrson, Jim
Subject: Re: MDJ request

Jon

In BOC right now. Jim will reach out to you first thing in am.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Kellie

On May 26, 2015, at 7:55 PM, Jon Gillooly <igillooly@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Jim/Kellie:

When last I wrote about the maintenance costs the county was responsible for regarding SunTrust Park, we wrote that the county's capital maintenance costs were capped at \$35 million and that anything over that would be paid for by the Braves over the life of the 30-year contract. In addition, the county was only responsible in this \$35 million cost for capital maintenance items only — pipes, elevators, etc. — while general maintenance was the responsibility of the Braves.

1) Is that still accurate?

We also reported at the time that the \$35 million would come from the new Cumberland tax district.

2) Still correct?

Thanks,

Jon

Jon Gillooly
Marietta Daily Journal
Phone: 770.428.9411 ext. 211
Fax: 770.422.9533

Agreement caps Cobb's responsibility for Braves stadium capital maintenance at \$35 million

[http://mdjonline.com/view/full_story/24140245/article-Agreement-caps-Cobb-s-responsibility-for-Braves-stadium-capital-maintenance-at-\\$35-million?instance=braves](http://mdjonline.com/view/full_story/24140245/article-Agreement-caps-Cobb-s-responsibility-for-Braves-stadium-capital-maintenance-at-$35-million?instance=braves)

by Jon Gillooly

November 29, 2013 07:03

PM | 4408 views | 6  | 42  | 

MARIETTA — An amendment to the agreement with the Atlanta Braves approved by the Cobb Board of Commissioners on Tuesday caps the amount of capital maintenance the county will have to pay for the new

stadium at \$35 million.

Anything more than that over the 30-year life of the contract falls to the Braves to pay for, said county chairman Tim Lee.

Much has been made of how Turner Field, which is only 16 years old, is in need of at least \$150 million in capital maintenance improvements.

Critics of the Cobb deal have worried that Cobb could be saddled with similar costs halfway through the 30-year contract with the Braves.

But Mike Plant, executive vice president of business operations for the Braves, said comparing Turner Field's needs to that of the proposed Cobb stadium is comparing apples and oranges. Turner Field was built for the Olympics, a 16-day event. By being able to build their own stadium from the ground up, they will be able to design it in such a way that will not require the kind of capital maintenance expenses needed of Turner Field, he said.

Still, rather than take his word for it, Plant said it was appropriate to cap the county's expenses in a legally binding contract.

"Tim and (Commissioner) Bob (Ott) and I had a conversation saying, OK, here's what the Braves will propose, we'll propose that we're both in for 50 percent up to \$70 million, and if it goes over that 100 percent of the overage is the Braves, so there's nothing now in this deal that doesn't have a cap on it, and the biggest one obviously being I've seen a number of articles written about how these projects and budgets always go over, and the county is just looking at more and more exposure, and they're going to get screwed, and I think you know from looking at the (memorandum of understanding) that we're responsible for all the cost overruns."

Plant describes capital maintenance costs by using the example of taking a building and turning it upside down. The items that would fall out of the building represent general maintenance, which falls to the Braves, while the items that do not fall out, such as pipes, elevators and concrete, fall under capital maintenance. Capital maintenance costs will be split between the Braves and Cobb.

How the county plans to pay the \$35 million

The \$35 million in capital maintenance which the county is obligated to pay is over and above the \$672 million cost of the stadium, of which the county has agreed to pay for \$300 million.

Lee said he intends to pay for the \$35 million from revenues collected from a new tax district the Board of Commissioners will create in the coming weeks with boundaries roughly following the lines of the 5.5-square-mile Cumberland Community Improvement District. The governing board of that CID, chaired by Tad Leithead, has already signed a resolution endorsing the new tax district's creation.

Since the new tax district will be formed and begin to collect money before the first payments on the bonds issued to finance the stadium are due, Lee anticipates having a minimum of \$10 million set aside by the time the first capital maintenance improvements need to be made.

"It probably won't begin to be a need until you're five or six years into it," Lee said. "It's to repair stuff like you would repair in your home long term. Like on your home you would replace shingles and water heaters. This is to replace stuff like that on the stadium, which, the first five to seven years, you probably aren't going to need."

As for routine maintenance, that is up to the Braves to pay for, Plant said.

"We spend \$1 million a year out of our budget just on repairs and just general maintenance," Plant said. "It's an unknown number to most people, and I understand the emotion that sometimes goes into deals like this because of how big they are, but I think I'm confident more and more that the citizens of Cobb will see that this impact and the positive impact is going to far surpass what they believe the risk is to them."

Plant said around the new stadium's fifth or sixth birthday, his organization will begin to look for enhancements, which he calls "the new roller coaster."

"What I mean by that is, it's an expression I've used at the Braves is every year or two, once you start looking at a new facility, you need to start looking at what's the new enhancement, what's the new fan experience, and that's not coming out of CMF (capital maintenance fund), that's coming out of our pocket, so it's another bucket of dollars that we will be putting in," Plant said.

But what if they leave?

Critics have worried about the Braves leaving before the 30-year bonds for the stadium are paid off, but Lee and Plant say the terms of the contract they will be signing are legally binding.

"Essentially, the only way the Braves could ever leave is if the county and the (Cobb-Marietta Coliseum and Exhibit Hall Authority) that owns the building were in complete breach of their obligations, and there's a whole bunch of default breaches and notices and cures in the long form agreement, so it's kind of a nuclear clause," Plant said. "There's nothing that we can do to walk away from that. So it's all on the county that as long as they do what say they're going to do, we're there."

The contract, which will be one of several the county and Braves sign over the coming months in the wake of the memorandum of understanding approval, is standard for the industry, Plant said.

"It's also something that's approved by Major League Baseball because

they understand that they're not going to have their clubs set up to where they can five, 10 years down the road decide to pick up and go somewhere else. It's a pretty standard form that's used," he said.

Consider that it's not just the \$280 million upfront payment the Braves are making on the \$672 million stadium, either, Plant said.

"I mean, we didn't win the lottery," he said. "There's an opportunity cost for us to go above that of about \$100 million. That's on our balance sheet. That's not even part of the deal. There's another \$40 to \$50 million that we're putting in of what we call F, F and E — furniture, fixtures and equipment — in order to open the stadium. That's all on our side of the ledger as well. Then you add the annual maintenance, that's about \$1 million a year, and then you add over the life of the 30 years, as I said, Turner Field, we put \$125 million in there, and so I don't know what that number will be, but we'll keep investing in that facility to make sure that we have a new fan experience and enhancements and then there's the development, so our number is pretty significant in this deal. As I said, I'm very comfortable and confident that the citizens of Cobb County are going to see this incredible impact and it will pay dividends tenfold."

Moving forward The Braves have been working with Dallas-based HKS for architectural services, Cary, N.C.-based Kimley-Horn & Associates on engineering and transportation, and Chicago-based Jones Lang LaSalle for its development needs.

"We have those guys on board now," Plant said. "The way we set this up was until we got final approval then they've been working for us as part of our team and we're far down the road."

This coming week Plant intends to issue a 60-plus page "request for qualifications" to some 50 national, regional and local firms for the proposed \$400 million mixed-use development the Braves intend to build beside the stadium.

Of the 60-acre property the Braves are purchasing from Bethesda, Md.-based B.F. Saul Co., 15 will be deeded to the Cobb-Marietta Coliseum and Exhibit Hall Authority for the stadium site. The Braves intend to build a \$400 million mixed-use development on the remaining 45 acres, set to open with the stadium in spring 2017, envisioned as a 365-day a year family-friendly entertainment district of shops, restaurants and possibly hotels.

"We want them to present us with what they think their ideas are," Plant said of the 50 firms that will receive the request for qualifications. "What they would do with that space. How they would possibly play in that space with us."

Then the Braves will decide whether to be their own master developer or to partner with an outside firm.

Plant hopes groundbreaking will occur this coming summer.

"We're just thrilled with this decision and with the opportunity to be part of the community up there," Plant told the MDJ on Wednesday, the day after the historic vote, in which the Board of Commissioners approved the MOU in a 4-1 vote with Lisa Cupid opposed.

"I'm just really confident that again we're going to have a historic impact for a long, long time in a very positive way for the entire area and the region, and we're an organization that's going to deliver more than what we said we're going to, and I just ask people to give us a little time, they're going to start seeing that, I told Lisa Cupid that same thing last night afterwards, I said 'look, we're going to do some things that are going to make everyone here pretty proud.'"

Read more: [The Marietta Daily Journal - Agreement caps Cobb's responsibility for Braves stadium capital maintenance at](#)

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 12:55 PM
To: 'Hilary Butschek'
Subject: RE: Interview with Chairman

Hilary

Chairman asked me to follow up with you to clarify his answer to the question you asked about Ron Sifen's suggested language.

From Chairman:

- The language in the CTP was provided to and vetted by all 4 commissioners in advance of the meeting. Each Commissioner was provided with a draft report including the language
- We appreciate and respect Ron's input on the matter
- The BOC cannot legally bind a future board to a voter referendum or any other course of action

Let me know if you have any questions.

Have a great weekend.

Kellie

From: Hilary Butschek [mailto:hbutschek@mdjonline.com]
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2015 11:59 AM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: RE: Interview with Chairman

Sounds good. Thanks

From: Brownlow, Kellie [mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org]
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 11:57 AM
To: Hilary Butschek
Subject: Re: Interview with Chairman

Working on it for you. Stand by. I am trying to catch him before he gets on plane. So when he rings me I am probably just going to try to get you on the line. I expect a call from him within the hour.

Kellie

On Jun 5, 2015, at 11:19 AM, Hilary Butschek <hbutschek@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Thank you. I'd like to ask about his reaction to the concerns about the BRT language. (I know I have the memo, but it will sound better coming from the Chairman in conversation.)

Also, if we have time I have a second question about the plans to up the security in the county building – just why is that needed.

-Hilary

From: Brownlow, Kellie [<mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>]
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 11:07 AM
To: Hilary Butschek
Subject: Re: Interview with Chairman

Hilary

Checking now. Will get with you as soon as we talk. What are you interested in asking?

Kellie

On Jun 5, 2015, at 10:44 AM, Hilary Butschek <hbutschek@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Good morning, Ms. Brownlow.

I'll be working on that story on the BRT language today.

I know Chairman Lee is in New York, but is there a free 10 minutes he could call me during today?

Thank you,
Hilary Butschek
Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal
770 428 9411 ext. 217
hbutschek@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 6:16 PM
To: Hilary Butschek
Subject: Brt tiger question

Hilary

Hey there! Faye is out of office. But, I answered below.

Happy weekend to you!

Kellie

The application went in today. BRT is not listed as a project for the requested funding.

On Jun 5, 2015, at 4:07 PM, Hilary Butschek <hbutschek@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Ms. DiMassimo,

Could you please let me know if Cobb has applied for the TIGER grant?

Also, is BRT listed as a potential project for TIGER funds in the application?

Thank you,
Hilary Butschek
Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal
770 428 9411 ext. 217
hbutschek@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2015 11:59 AM
To: 'Brittini Ray'
Subject: RE: MDJ Factbook

Importance: High

Brittini

See below. Hopefully, we are not too late. So sorry!

Kellie

Cobb County's quality of life is unmatched making it a place where:

- families can thrive
- students of all ages can get a world class education, from pre-k to phd
- companies can invest and grow within a stable economic environment.
- growing an educated workforce is a priority.
- there is a laser focus on Public Safety
- conservative financial planning and management has delivered year after year of unprecedented respect and acknowledgement from regulatory and oversight organizations.
- taxes are low, but services are delivered by the best team of professionals ever collected in a single public organization.
- job creation is robust and growing and quality focused growth is the priority.

From: Brittini Ray [mailto:bray@mdjonline.com]
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2015 8:45 AM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: RE: MDJ Factbook

My absolute deadline is mid- Monday morning. Is it possible to have it first thing Monday morning?

From: Brownlow, Kellie [mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org]
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 8:40 AM
To: Brittini Ray
Subject: Re: MDJ Factbook

Brittini

Hi. Is tomorrow afternoon your drop dead? Chairman has asked for an extension until Monday ;)

Will that work? If not, we'll work it out for you.

Sorry. Let me know.

Kellie

On Jun 4, 2015, at 11:30 PM, Brittini Ray <bray@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Hi Kellie,

My deadline is Saturday afternoon. Thanks for your help.

From: Brownlow, Kellie [Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org]

Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 5:37 PM

To: Brittini Ray

Subject: RE: MDJ Factbook

Brittini

I can absolutely help you. When is your deadline?

Kellie

From: Brittini Ray [<mailto:bray@mdjonline.com>]

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2015 4:22 PM

To: Brownlow, Kellie

Subject: FW: MDJ Factbook

Hi Kellie,

I am trying to get in contact with Chairman Lee for a story I am writing for our annual Factbook project about the county? I am looking for brief comment from the chairman about what makes the county such a great place. Can you help me? Thank you.

From: Brittini Ray

Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 11:19 AM

To: 'tlee@cobbcounty.org'

Subject: MDJ Factbook

Hi Commissioner Lee,

I am writing a story about the county for our annual Factbook project and would love to have a brief comment from you about what makes the county such great place. I've included some questions below that I would greatly appreciate you answering. Thanks again for your help.

What are some of the best qualities about the county that a newcomer should know about?

What are some unique characteristics that you admire about the city?
Anything else you'd like to add or comments you would like to make would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks again.

Brittini Ray
News Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal
770-428-9411 ext 225
bray@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2015 2:43 PM
To: 'Hilary Butschek'
Subject: RE: Media request

Hilary

I do not receive or respond to open records requests. All open records requests are received by the County Attorney's office who then coordinates with appropriate staff and responds accordingly.

Kellie

From: Hilary Butschek [mailto:hbutschek@mdjonline.com]
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2015 1:49 PM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: Media request

Hi Ms. Brownlow,

I'm working on a story about the agenda item to transfer open records responsibilities to the county attorney.

I remember you mentioning that your position also has open records responsibilities. Could you (by phone or email) let me know what your open records role is and how that fits in with the county manager? Would you two work together or have different responsibilities?

Thank you,
Hilary Butschek
Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal
770 428 9411 ext. 217
hbutschek@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2015 3:38 PM
To: 'Hilary Butschek'
Subject: RE: Media request

Hilary-

No.

Kellie

From: Hilary Butschek [<mailto:hbutschek@mdjonline.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2015 2:52 PM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: RE: Media request

Thanks.

Also, is there any intention that you would take over the open records requests for the Chairman's office in the future?

-Hilary

From: Brownlow, Kellie [<mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>]
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2015 2:43 PM
To: Hilary Butschek
Subject: RE: Media request

Hilary

I do not receive or respond to open records requests. All open records requests are received by the County Attorney's office who then coordinates with appropriate staff and responds accordingly.

Kellie

From: Hilary Butschek [<mailto:hbutschek@mdjonline.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2015 1:49 PM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: Media request

Hi Ms. Brownlow,

I'm working on a story about the agenda item to transfer open records responsibilities to the county attorney.

I remember you mentioning that your position also has open records responsibilities. Could you (by phone or email) let me know what your open records role is and how that fits in with the county manager? Would you two work together or have different responsibilities?

Thank you,
Hilary Butschek
Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal
770 428 9411 ext. 217
hbutschek@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 12:45 PM
To: 'jgillooly@mdjonline.com'
Subject: FW: SPLOST attorney, TIGER
Attachments: Connect Cobb related Intersections; CTP revisions; Trail map revisions asap; FW: Trail map revisions asap ; Commissioner Ott CTP final discussion_May19.docx

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 12:42 PM
To: 'tomcheek@msn.com'
Cc: Weatherford, Bob; 'Jon Gillooly'; 'Hilary Butschek'; Lee, Tim
Subject: RE: SPLOST attorney, TIGER

Tom,

Thank you for your note and input. Below is some additional information to address your 2nd concern regarding "Please NEVER ask Commissioners to vote on an item that when they have not had a chance to read the final version."

To provide some context, The Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) is required by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and prepared in accordance with ARC – CTP requirements. This document is intended to serve as a "guide" for local governments. It is not a regulatory document.

- Chairman Lee met multiple times with each commissioner from January to May to gather input and suggestions on every element of the CTP;
- All comments and suggestions were documented and forwarded to the appropriate staff to ensure that commissioner suggested changes to the CTP were made;
- On May 19, each Commissioner was provided with a draft of the CTP document that incorporated all of their comments, to date, and specifically included the recommended "BRT Language" that was part of the document;
- Commissioner Ott was unavailable to meet on this day to review the draft document. However, he was provided with the attached memo that included answers to all of his most recent questions about the CTP. Included with the memo were several documents for the Commissioner to review.
- In addition to the draft suggested "BRT Language" specifically addressed in this memo, it was also included in the draft document that was provided as an attachment to the memo;
- Following the distribution of the draft CTP document on May 19, both the Chairman and Transportation staff received several additional questions about and changes to the draft CTP, none of which included a recommended change to or question about the "BRT language."
- The document that was adopted by the BOC on May 26 was provided to the Board on May 19 and posted on the CDOT website at that time;
- On May 21, the agenda was posted to the Cobb County website and it was noted that the document was on record in the County Clerk's Office and available on the CDOT website;
- On May 26 the board adopted the resolution to approve the 5 year update of the 2040 Comprehensive Transportation Plan. None of the projects, including BRT, were approved by the board. The Board approved a policy document, not specific projects. Every project needs to come back to the board for approval, if and when, they are executed;

- The entire document was considered a draft document until the Board officially adopted it with a 5-0 vote on May 26.

Finally, the project proposed in the Tiger Grant application is not Connect Cobb. It is a separate project that will positively impact existing vehicular and transit traffic flow and future traffic operations, in sum, on US 41. Attached is an email that includes list of the intersections proposed in the Connect Cobb project and the Tiger project. There are no Connect Cobb related intersections in the TIGER application.

For Your information and to provide you with some additional background, attached, please find:

- May 19 memo to Commissioner Ott answering some of his questions on the CTP including the "BRT Language."
- Email communication, dated May 22, between Commissioner Ott and transportation staff outlining additional changes he had to the document, none of which addressed or suggested that the BRT language be revised or changed.
- An email to Commissioners outlining the intersections in Connect Cobb and the recently submitted Tiger grant application.

Regarding the CTP, every concern communicated by Board members was addressed and every change requested was made. There were no concerns raised about the recommended BRT language prior to the vote on May 26. Hopefully, this timeline and additional information helps to clarify the open line of communication that was established with the board throughout the development of the CTP.

Please feel free to contact Chairman Lee, Commissioner Weatherford or I with any additional questions and thank you taking the time to express your concerns.

Kellie

Kellie Anne Brownlow
Deputy Chief to the Chairman
Cobb County Chairman's Office
(d) 770-528-3333
(m) 404-374-3130
Kellie.brownlow@cobbcounty.org

From: Tom Cheek [<mailto:tomcheek@msn.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 7:22 AM
To: Lee, Tim
Cc: Weatherford, Bob; Jon Gillooly; Hilary Butschek
Subject: Re: SPLOST attorney, TIGER

Kellie,

I am copying Commissioner Weatherford, as he is my District Commissioner. I am including Jon and Hilary, as I have already shared my thoughts with them on the TIGER application.

I am not available Thursday, but would be available Friday.

The Chairman may find that a meeting is not necessary, as my thoughts are very simple:

1. Please hire an additional full time attorney for Ms. Dance, but use the General Fund and make the position permanent. Ms. Dance is the most open and honest person I have ever dealt with at the County. Her loyalty to Cobb is unquestioned, and if she says she needs more staff, we should believe her.

I know that using SPLOST funds for an attorney is legal, but it's not the best route to go. Even though it's legal, it looks like the county is dipping into the SPLOST for salary when there were many public promises (predating Commissioner Weatherford, of course) specifically stating that the fund would not be used for salaries.

2. Please NEVER ask Commissioners to vote on an item that when they have not had a chance to read the final version. PLEASE never ask them to vote on something that voters can't read in the agenda ahead of time. The TIGER grant application mentions approval processes (APL, AA, EIS, etc.) and the project went through some of these approval processes as part of The BRT. The grant application mentions the 2016 SPLOST as a funding source when the Commissioners only approved the 2011 SPLOST as a funding source. It's not right. The application should be withdrawn, and the the project should be included if/when there is a vote for BRT. BRT \$20 million at a time is still BRT. If BRT is presented as a full project, we could all carefully consider it.

In short, nobody likes sneaky, and nobody likes sneaky-looking. Please stay away from the 2016 SPLOST \$ and use it for the projects that we voted on.

Thanks,

Tom

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 9, 2015, at 10:32 AM, Lee, Tim <Tim.Lee@cobbcounty.org> wrote:

Mr. Cheek,

Good morning. Are you available to meet with Chairman Lee on Thursday afternoon or Friday between 1 and 2 to discuss your concerns and suggestions below?

If these times do not work, we can work around your schedule and arrange an alternative time that is convenient for you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kellie

Kellie Anne Brownlow
Deputy Chief to the Chairman
Cobb County Chairman's Office
(d) 770-528-3333
(m) 404-374-3130
Kellie.brownlow@cobbcounty.org

From: Tom Cheek [<mailto:tomcheek@msn.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2015 4:22 PM

To: Lee, Tim
Subject: Re: SPLOST attorney

Sure, just let me know. Just to be clear, I think we should increase the legal staff, I just think it should be done from the general fund.

iPhone Message

On Jun 8, 2015, at 11:44 AM, Lee, Tim <Tim.Lee@cobbcounty.org> wrote:

Tom-

Thank you for your note and input. I am out of the office until Thursday but happy to meet with you upon my return if you'd like to talk about this further.

Tim

Tim Lee
Chairman
770-846-7340

To stay updated on what is happening in Cobb, sign up to receive my newsletter:
<http://www.cobbcounty.org/lee>

From: Tom Cheek [<mailto:tomcheek@msn.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2015 9:18 AM
To: Weatherford, Bob; Lee, Tim
Subject: Fwd: SPLOST attorney

Bob,

Can you or Chairman Lee give me an update on this issue?

As noted below, I think you should increase staff for the County Attorney, but do so from the General Fund. Thanks for considering my input.

Tom Cheek

iPhone Message

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tom Cheek <tomcheek@msn.com>
Date: June 8, 2015 at 9:13:25 AM EDT
To: "Dance, Deborah" <Deborah.Dance@cobbcounty.org>
Subject: Re: SPLOST attorney

Tried. High call volume, so can't get through the main line.

FYI-

I'm in favor of increasing your staff, but not with SPLOST funds. I know it is legal to do, but I think they should just increase your staff permanently using the General Fund.

I am concerned if it is not in the agenda that there is some back channel way to make it happen without a vote.

Thanks
iPhone Message

On Jun 8, 2015, at 8:17 AM, Dance, Deborah
<Deborah.Dance@cobbcounty.org> wrote:

Please call me.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 8, 2015, at 7:47 AM, Tom
Cheek <tomcheek@msn.com>
wrote:

Deborah,

I hope all is well!

I did not see the SPLOST attorney
item on the agenda for tomorrow.
Can you tell me what the status on
this proposal is?

Thanks,

Tom

iPhone Message

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 12:37 PM
To: hbutschek@mdjonline.com
Subject: FW: Connect Cobb related Intersections
Attachments: image002.png

Hilary

I think this is what you need.

Kellie

From: DiMassimo, Faye
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2015 9:27 AM
To: Lee, Tim; Birrell, JoAnn; Weatherford, Bob; Cupid, Lisa
Subject: Connect Cobb related Intersections

There are no Connect Cobb related intersections in the TIGER app - see below.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "DiMassimo, Faye" <Faye.DiMassimo@cobbcounty.org>
Date: June 9, 2015 at 7:12:41 AM EDT
To: "Ott, Bob" <Bob.Ott@cobbcounty.org>
Cc: "Hankerson, David" <David.Hankerson@cobbcounty.org>
Subject: Intersections

Commissioner,

Per your conversation with Mr. Hankerson yesterday, below reflects a comparison of the intersection improvements proposed in each. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Intersections Removed from 2016 SPLOST (\$78 M)

Chastain Road at Busbee Dr
Busbee Pkwy at Big Shanty
Busbee Pkwy at Barrett Pkwy
S. Barrett at Cobb Pkwy
Spring Road at Cumberland Blvd
Cumberland Blvd at Cumberland Dr
Cumberland Pkwy at Akers Mill
Akers Mill at Cobb Pkwy
Akers Mill at I-75
Pedestrian Improvements

TIGER Grant Applications

Bells Ferry - QJ

Allgood Rd/Fairground St - QJ

North Marietta Pkwy -QJ

Roswell Road - QJ

Trade Center Pkwy- QJ

S. Marietta Pkwy (Improvement 2) - QJ

Windy Ridge/Cumberland Blvd (Improvement 3)

3rd lane S. Loop to N. Loop (Improvement 1)

Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP

Director

COBB COUNTY DOT

1890 County Services Pkwy / Marietta, GA 30008 / Tel: (770) 528-1647

Cobb County DOT Website: www.cobbdot.org

Road Closure Information: <http://www.cobbgis.org:81/CobbRSISMobile/Handheld.html?viewer=cobbviewer>

Text "Follow cobbcountygovt" to 40404 or Follow on Twitter @cobbcountygovt for Traffic Alerts



Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 4:09 PM
To: 'Hilary Butschek'
Subject: RE: Request

Hilary

Answers to your questions below. Sorry for the delay.

Kellie

From: Hilary Butschek
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 1:35 PM
To: 'Brownlow, Kellie'
Subject: Request

Hello Ms. Brownlow,

Here is my question for Chairman Tim Lee: Do you support putting the BRT up to a referendum before moving forward on funding or constructing the project? **Yes.**

Please explain why your opinion has changed on whether a referendum is necessary? **I have never opposed it. In fact I was the first person to suggest a voter referendum last year.**

I want to reiterate that this is not an active project nor is it even being considered as a project in the next 5 years.

Thank you,
Hilary Butschek
Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal
770 428 9411 ext. 217
hbutschek@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 5:44 PM
To: Jon Gillooly
Cc: Hankerson, David
Subject: Re: Media request

Jon

I am ccing David Hankerson. He is most appropriate person to answer questions regarding this matter.

Kellie

On Jun 18, 2015, at 5:06 PM, Jon Gillooly <jgillooly@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Kellie,

Want to give Chairman Lee or anyone else at the county the opportunity to respond to these comments and the complaint Tom Cheek has filed.

Thanks,

Jon

Jon Gillooly
Marietta Daily Journal
Phone: 770.428.9411 ext. 211
Fax: 770.422.9533

From: Tom Cheek [mailto:tomcheek@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 4:25 PM
To: Hilary Butschek
Cc: Jon Gillooly
Subject: Re: Media request

First, I asked the Commissioners to withdraw the application for the TIGER grant. I did this face-to-face at a meeting on 6/9 and by email on 6/10. I did not receive a response from 4 of them. One commissioner stated that he wished he could withdraw the application, but did not see a process to do this.

The application has errors, and false statements. The application exaggerates the status of the LPA as being accepted by the governing authority of the county, but there has been no vote on the LPA. I have made repeated Open Record Requests on the issue that have not yet been answered, so I have relied on the research of available records on the county website. I have since learned the the same erroneous information was used in the New Starts application, and I think this is a serious issue. I did not accuse any one person specifically, and categorized the issue as mismanagement, not fraud.

I don't think it is right for commissioners to vote on a \$20 million project when they or the public have not had a chance to review the final version of the application. Items that commissioners vote on should be in the agenda.

You have my follow up emails where I was told by Kellie Brownlow that "no comment" from Commissioners when they were presented with the AA was equal to their acceptance of an LPA. I think this is very misleading. Since I had no satisfactory response from the county, I went to a website to find a way to give my input. when I filled out an online form asking to give input on the TIGER project, I was referred to this site.

<https://www.oig.dot.gov/Hotline>

I called the number, gave my name and contact info and spent about 15 minutes giving them the details of what I see as errors and inaccuracies in the application.

I think you have my emails from Kellie Brownlow from last week. Let me know if you need a resend.

iPhone Message

On Jun 18, 2015, at 3:54 PM, Hilary Butschek <hbutschek@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Hello Mr. Cheek,

I just gave you a call, but I wanted to email as well. Could you please let me know more about the complaint you filed today?

How did you file it?

What is the purpose of your complaint?

What would you like to see happen?

Thank you,
Hilary Butschek
Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal
770 428 9411 ext. 217
hbutschek@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie on behalf of Lee, Tim
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 4:14 PM
To: 'Chandler Morgan'
Subject: RE: MDJ Article on new two-lane Pitner Road Bridge over Little Allatoona Creek consideration

Chandler,

Thank you for your email. I suggest you reach out to David Hankerson to coordinate his staff to answer these questions as they make the recommendation to the board and will have all the detail.

Commissioner Weatherford is the District Commissioner.

Hope this helps. Have a great weekend.

Kellie

Kellie Anne Brownlow
Deputy Chief to the Chairman
Cobb County Chairman's Office
(d) 770-528-3333
(m) 404-374-3130
Kellie.brownlow@cobbcounty.org

From: Chandler Morgan [mailto:cmorgan@mdjonline.com]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:15 PM
To: Ott, Bob; Weatherford, Bob; Lee, Tim
Subject: MDJ Article on new two-lane Pitner Road Bridge over Little Allatoona Creek consideration

Good Afternoon,

I am writing an article for the Marietta Daily Journal in which concerns the Board of Commissioner's to consider this Tuesday during the scheduled meeting on paying Tidwell Construction \$1.02 million for a new two-lane Pitner Road Bridge over Little Allatoona Creek. I wanted to contact you to get some information for the story, if possible.

My questions are as follows:

Why is the bridge needed?
When will construction begin?
When will construction be finished?
Where will the funding of the \$1.02 million come from?
Do you support or not support this consideration, and why?
Also, any other further comments on the project are greatly appreciated.

I am available by email all day today, and telephone. I am looking to get the article filed for this evening, if possible.

Thanks so much! I look forward to hearing your responses!

Thanks!

Chandler Morgan
Marietta Daily Journal
Cell: 404.395.0002
770.428.9411 ext. 210

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 12:53 PM
To: 'Ricky Leroux'
Subject: RE: Media request: Documents

Just tried. Let me know if it worked. Also, have copies of most recent circulator study briefing and a survey conducted by the Braves. We literally do not have these digitally so I am bringing you a copy.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ricky Leroux [mailto:rleroux@mdjonline.com]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 12:50 PM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: Re: Media request: Documents

Try sending it to my personal email address: rickylaroux@gmail.com

Ricky Leroux
Marietta Daily Journal
770.428.9411 ext. 220

> On Jun 26, 2015, at 12:48 PM, Brownlow, Kellie <Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org> wrote:

>

> See below. The files are too big. So sorry! If you'd like to come here and read it in advance, we can just meet here...

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: MAILER-DAEMON

> Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 12:47 PM

> To: Brownlow, Kellie

> Subject: Undeliverable: Media request: Documents

>

> Delivery has failed to these recipients or groups:

>

> rleroux@mdjonline.com

> A problem occurred during the delivery of this message to this e-mail address. Try sending this message again. If the problem continues, please contact your helpdesk.

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

> Diagnostic information for administrators:

>

> Generating server: spamfilter.cobbcounty.org

>
> rleroux@mdjonline.com
> #< #5.0.0 X-Spam-Firewall; host mail.mdjonline.com[208.62.80.5] said:
> 552 Requested mail action aborted: exceeded storage allocation (in
> reply to MAIL FROM command)> #SMTP#
>
> Original message headers:
>
> X-ASG-Debug-ID: 1435337199-0580a736b56c690001-b3Sez6
> Received: from DC-MSGEX06PVWP.SS.COBBROOT.LOCAL ([172.16.14.206]) by
> spamfilter.cobbcounty.org with ESMTP id 1K8VDsQhcsVukIAL
> (version=TLSv1 cipher=AES128-SHA bits=128 verify=NO) for
> <rleroux@mdjonline.com>; Fri, 26 Jun 2015 12:46:39 -0400 (EDT)
> X-Barracuda-Envelope-From: Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org
> Received: from DC-MSGEX02PVWP.SS.COBBROOT.LOCAL
> ([fe80::4881:1735:9a18:c7e4]) by DC-MSGEX06PVWP.SS.COBBROOT.LOCAL
> ([fe80::6c63:918a:b5be:5e09%16]) with mapi id 14.03.0210.002; Fri, 26
> Jun 2015 12:46:36 -0400
> From: "Brownlow, Kellie" <Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>
> To: 'Ricky Leroux' <rleroux@mdjonline.com>
> Subject: RE: Media request: Documents
> Thread-Topic: Media request: Documents
> X-ASG-Orig-Subj: RE: Media request: Documents
> Thread-Index: AdCwLf0xeb38ATA9TmmO/x6+sJiSwAAEvNg
> Date: Fri, 26 Jun 2015 16:46:34 +0000
> Message-ID:
> <0DF335B0BFDAB640B94345382B785D61302C949D@DC-MSGEX02PVWP.SS.COBBROOT.L
> OCA>
> References:
> <4B5FEB2ED5706B498F24CB9CB0F4F2602E555ABE@EXCHSRV2.mdjcentral.net>
> In-Reply-To:
> <4B5FEB2ED5706B498F24CB9CB0F4F2602E555ABE@EXCHSRV2.mdjcentral.net>
> Accept-Language: en-US
> Content-Language: en-US
> X-MS-Has-Attach: yes
> X-MS-TNEF-Correlator:
> x-originating-ip: [172.16.14.211]
> Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
> boundary="_007_0DF335B0BFDAB640B94345382B785D61302C949DDCMSGEX02PVWPSS_"
> MIME-Version: 1.0
> X-Barracuda-Connect: UNKNOWN[172.16.14.206]
> X-Barracuda-Start-Time: 1435337199
> X-Barracuda-Encrypted: AES128-SHA
> X-Barracuda-URL:
> https://spamfilter.cobbcounty.org:443/cgi-mod/mark.cgi
> X-Virus-Scanned: by bsmtpd at cobbcounty.org
> X-Barracuda-BRTS-Status: 1
> X-Barracuda-Spam-Score: -1001.00
> X-Barracuda-Spam-Status: No, SCORE=-1001.00 using global scores of
> TAG_LEVEL=1000.0 QUARANTINE_LEVEL=1000.0 KILL_LEVEL=1000.0
>
>

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2015 9:10 PM
To: JK Murphy
Cc: Lee, Tim
Subject: Re: Cobb transit comments

JK

Hello. The comment period is actually still open. It closes on July 15. Can you check back in then?

Have a great night.

Kellie

On Jun 30, 2015, at 7:25 PM, JK Murphy <jkmurphy@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Kellie,

I stopped by the Connect Cobb open house Monday evening. I was wondering how many people turned in their comment sheet and if I can get ahold of them.

- J.K. Murphy
Managing Editor/ VP of Content
Marietta Daily Journal
770-428-9411 Ext. 207
jkmurphy@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2015 5:11 PM
To: 'JK Murphy'
Cc: Lee, Tim; McCullers, Steve
Subject: RE: Water

JK

I don't know if you have met Steve McCullers yet. He is our resident expert on all things water. Steve, JK is the new editor of MDJ. He is the former editor of the Gwinnett Daily Post and it's great for Cobb to have him in our neck of the woods.

Chairman Lee and JK sat down a few weeks ago and Chairman talked a lot about the efficiency of the underground system in terms of water delivery and very little leakage and water waste. He also talked about how we gain efficiency through 3 different systems (clean, dirty and storm).

He referenced some examples in California.

All of this to say, JK is interested in learning more and you are the perfect person to make this happen.

Thanks so much. Have a great weekend.

Kellie

Kellie Anne Brownlow
Deputy Chief to the Chairman
Cobb County Chairman's Office
(d) 770-528-3333
(m) 404-374-3130
Kellie.brownlow@cobbcounty.org

From: JK Murphy [mailto:jkmurphy@mdjonline.com]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2015 9:18 AM
To: Brownlow, Kellie; Lee, Tim
Subject: Water

Tim,

In one of our recent meetings you were talking about the efficiency of the Cobb water system and cited some comparisons with other cities and areas.

Can you share those again?

Thanks.

- J.K. Murphy
Managing Editor/ VP of Content

Marietta Daily Journal
770-428-9411 Ext. 207
jkmurphy@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:27 PM
To: 'Brittini Ray'
Subject: RE: MDJ Media Request

Brittini

Hey! I thought I responded but cannot find it in my sent folder. Following is a statement from Chairman Lee:

There is no issue more paramount than Public safety in Cobb County. Our first responders work tirelessly day and night to ensure our residents, visitors, neighborhoods and communities feel as safe as possible. In their daily duties, Cobb County first responders uphold the highest standards of accountability and ethical integrity. I understand Commissioner Cupid had an interaction that was unsettling to her. As in every situation, where we have an inquiry into public safety, it is the job of the county manager and public safety team to look into and address concerns raised by the situation. Should the leadership team bring forward any changes to procedures as a result of this incident, they will presented to and considered by the board.

From: Brittini Ray [mailto:bray@mdjonline.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 3:42 PM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: RE: MDJ Media Request

Hi Ms. Brownlow,

I am looking for a general comment from the chairman regarding Ms. Cupid's memo and some of her key points. She mentions the public safety administrative office quickly defended the actions and how she fears for family and other community members living in fear of being provoked or railroaded by police.

Is fear of police provocation abundant in Cobb?

Commissioner Cupid mentioned in the memo the incident may have been different if it had happened to another commissioner. Are race relations of a major concern for the county commission right now?

Is following someone in an unmarked car part of police procedure? If so why?

How does administration planned to move forward in resolving the issue?

Any other comment you'd like to provide on the incident would greatly be appreciated.

Thank you so much for your help.

From: Brownlow, Kellie [mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 1:36 PM
To: Brittini Ray
Subject: RE: MDJ Media Request

Brittini

Happy to help. Can you give me a little bit more information about specifically what you'd like the Chairman to comment on?

Thanks so much.

Kellie

From: Brittini Ray [<mailto:bray@mdjonline.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 1:32 PM

To: Brownlow, Kellie

Subject: MDJ Media Request

Hi Ms. Brownlow,

I am following up on a story about an incident regarding Commissioner Cupid two weeks ago regarding an unmarked police car and wanted to get a comment from the chairman about the incident. Can you help me? Thank you.

Brittini Ray

News Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal

770-428-9411 ext 225

bray@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 9:48 AM
To: 'Brittini Ray'
Cc: 'JK Murphy'
Subject: FW: MDJ Media Request

Brittini

Good morning. I noticed that you did not print Chairman Lee's statement in its entirety in your article today. If possible, I would like to request a correction and ask that you print the statement below in its entirety.

Thank you and have a great day.

Kellie

Kellie Anne Brownlow
Deputy Chief to the Chairman
Cobb County Chairman's Office
(d) 770-528-3333
(m) 404-374-3130
Kellie.brownlow@cobbcounty.org

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:27 PM
To: 'Brittini Ray'
Subject: RE: MDJ Media Request

Brittini

Hey! I thought I responded but cannot find it in my sent folder. Following is a statement from Chairman Lee:

There is no issue more paramount than Public safety in Cobb County. Our first responders work tirelessly day and night to ensure our residents, visitors, neighborhoods and communities feel as safe as possible. In their daily duties, Cobb County first responders uphold the highest standards of accountability and ethical integrity. I understand Commissioner Cupid had an interaction that was unsettling to her. As in every situation, where we have an inquiry into public safety, it is the job of the county manager and public safety team to look into and address concerns raised by the situation. Should the leadership team bring forward any changes to procedures as a result of this incident, they will presented to and considered by the board.

From: Brittini Ray [<mailto:bray@mdjonline.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 3:42 PM

To: Brownlow, Kellie

Subject: RE: MDJ Media Request

Hi Ms. Brownlow,

I am looking for a general comment from the chairman regarding Ms. Cupid's memo and some of her key points. She mentions the public safety administrative office quickly defended the actions and how she fears for family and other community members living in fear of being provoked or railroaded by police.

Is fear of police provocation abundant in Cobb?

Commissioner Cupid mentioned in the memo the incident may have been different if it had happened to another commissioner. Are race relations of a major concern for the county commission right now?

Is following someone in an unmarked car part of police procedure? If so why?

How does administration planned to move forward in resolving the issue?

Any other comment you'd like to provide on the incident would greatly be appreciated.

Thank you so much for your help.

From: Brownlow, Kellie [<mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 1:36 PM

To: Brittini Ray

Subject: RE: MDJ Media Request

Brittini

Happy to help. Can you give me a little bit more information about specifically what you'd like the Chairman to comment on?

Thanks so much.

Kellie

From: Brittini Ray [<mailto:bray@mdjonline.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 1:32 PM

To: Brownlow, Kellie

Subject: MDJ Media Request

Hi Ms. Brownlow,

I am following up on a story about an incident regarding Commissioner Cupid two weeks ago regarding an unmarked police car and wanted to get a comment from the chairman about the incident. Can you help me? Thank you.

Brittini Ray

News Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal

770-428-9411 ext 225

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 12:11 PM
To: JK Murphy
Cc: Brittini Ray; Jon Gillooly; Ricky Leroux
Subject: Re: MDJ Media Request

JK

Thank you. No worries. I appreciate your prompt response.

Have a good rest of the day.

Kellie

On Jul 22, 2015, at 10:00 AM, JK Murphy <jkmurphy@mdjonline.com> wrote:

Kellie,

I'm batting a thousand with you guys today.

I edited out a portion of that statement. I thought the second part of the statement got to the point and addressed the issue at hand. As you are aware, that is common practice. If there is another story on this issue, we will consider running the entire statement, but I can't guarantee that. The other option is that you could submit as a Letter to the Editor and we will run in its entirety.

- JK

From: Brownlow, Kellie [<mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 9:48 AM

To: Brittini Ray

Cc: JK Murphy

Subject: FW: MDJ Media Request

Brittini

Good morning. I noticed that you did not print Chairman Lee's statement in its entirety in your article today. If possible, I would like to request a correction and ask that you print the statement below in its entirety.

Thank you and have a great day.

Kellie

Kellie Anne Brownlow
Deputy Chief to the Chairman
Cobb County Chairman's Office
(d) 770-528-3333
(m) 404-374-3130

Kellie.brownlow@cobbcounty.org

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:27 PM
To: 'Brittini Ray'
Subject: RE: MDJ Media Request

Brittini

Hey! I thought I responded but cannot find it in my sent folder. Following is a statement from Chairman Lee:

There is no issue more paramount than Public safety in Cobb County. Our first responders work tirelessly day and night to ensure our residents, visitors, neighborhoods and communities feel as safe as possible. In their daily duties, Cobb County first responders uphold the highest standards of accountability and ethical integrity. I understand Commissioner Cupid had an interaction that was unsettling to her. As in every situation, where we have an inquiry into public safety, it is the job of the county manager and public safety team to look into and address concerns raised by the situation. Should the leadership team bring forward any changes to procedures as a result of this incident, they will presented to and considered by the board.

From: Brittini Ray [<mailto:bray@mdjonline.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 3:42 PM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: RE: MDJ Media Request

Hi Ms. Brownlow,

I am looking for a general comment from the chairman regarding Ms. Cupid's memo and some of her key points. She mentions the public safety administrative office quickly defended the actions and how she fears for family and other community members living in fear of being provoked or railroaded by police.

Is fear of police provocation abundant in Cobb?
Commissioner Cupid mentioned in the memo the incident may have been different if it had happened to another commissioner. Are race relations of a major concern for the county commission right now?
Is following someone in an unmarked car part of police procedure? If so why?
How does administration planned to move forward in resolving the issue?

Any other comment you'd like to provide on the incident would greatly be appreciated.

Thank you so much for your help.

From: Brownlow, Kellie [<mailto:Kellie.Brownlow@cobbcounty.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 1:36 PM
To: Brittini Ray
Subject: RE: MDJ Media Request

Brittini

Happy to help. Can you give me a little bit more information about specifically what you'd like the Chairman to comment on?

Thanks so much.

Kellie

From: Brittini Ray [<mailto:bray@mdjonline.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 1:32 PM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: MDJ Media Request

Hi Ms. Brownlow,

I am following up on a story about an incident regarding Commissioner Cupid two weeks ago regarding an unmarked police car and wanted to get a comment from the chairman about the incident. Can you help me? Thank you.

Brittini Ray
News Reporter, Marietta Daily Journal
770-428-9411 ext 225
bray@mdjonline.com

Brownlow, Kellie

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 3:30 PM
To: 'JK Murphy'
Cc: jgillooly@mdjonline.com; 'Hilary Butschek'; 'Ricky Leroux'
Subject: Millage adoption process and schedule
Attachments: 2015 Property Tax Millage Rate Meetings-Public Hearings & Adoption Schedule; RE: Millage Adoption Public Meetings-We need your input to finalize; RE: Millage Adoption Public Meetings-We need your input to finalize; FW: Millage - Public Hearings & Adoption; RE: 2015 Millage Adoption-July 2015-Have a question; RE: 2015 Millage Adoption-July 2015-Have a question; RE: 2015 Millage Adoption-July 2015-Have a question; RE: 2015 Millage Adoption-July 2015-Have a question; RE: 2015 Millage Adoption-July 2015-Have a question; RE: 2015 Millage Adoption-July 2015-Have a question; RE: 2015 Millage Adoption-July 2015-Have a question; RE: 2015 Millage Adoption-July 2015-Have a question; RE: 2015 Millage Adoption-July 2015-Have a question; 2015 Millage Adoption-July 2015-Have a question

Team MDJ,

Good afternoon. Chairman Lee wanted to make sure we provided you with more information regarding the special called millage meeting this afternoon, per the piece in Chatterbox this morning. Below is a summary of the attached email correspondences.

- On February 17, an email was sent to all commissioner's offices requesting that their schedules be checked for their availability to participate in the 2015 millage adoption meetings, including 2 special called meetings. Only Commissioner Cupids office responded with a specific conflict.
- On March 26, 2015, an email with subject line "Millage Adoption Public Meetings: We Need Your Input," was sent to several Cobb staff including all commission assistants. This email outlined and sought input on the proposed time frame and process for adopting the 2015 millage including the adoption of the millage at a special called millage on Wednesday, July 22, 2015;
- On March 30, 2015 an email with subject line "2015 Property tax Millage Rate Meetings- Public Hearings & Adoption Schedule" was sent to several Cobb staff including all commission assistants. This email included final schedule for the public hearings, millage adoption (July 22 at special called meeting) and the required advertisement schedule;
- On July 6, 2015 the first of 2 required advertisements ran in the MDJ including notification that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held on Wednesday, July 22 at 4:00 pm;
- On July 13, 2015 the second of 2 required advertisements ran in the MDJ including notification that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held on Wednesday, July 22 at 4:00 pm;
- On July 14, 2015 Jim Pehrson made a presentation about the tax digest and the recommended millage rates for each fund, to the BOC at 2 separate public hearings. The very first slide of the presentation was a summary of the adoption schedule. Jim also verbally communicated the schedule at this time.

Finally, per the attached emails with subject line "2015 Millage Adoption – July 2015- I have a Question," the decision to adopt the 2015 millage rate at a special called meeting, instead of the regularly scheduled July night meeting, was made in November, 2014 in collaboration with the Tax Commissioner, County Clerk and Finance departments, to ensure that

all of the necessary paperwork could be processed and prepared to meet deadlines pre-set by the Department of Revenue (DOR).

Hopefully, this clarifies the process and the communication of this process to Board members and involved Cobb team members. Let me know if you have any questions. Have a great rest of the day.

Kellie

Kellie Anne Brownlow
Deputy Chief to the Chairman
Cobb County Chairman's Office
(d) 770-528-3333
(m) 404-374-3130
Kellie.brownlow@cobbcounty.org